cost, lasted six weeks. Lithuania had a new occupant — Nazi Germany.

The German occupation lasted three years; they were years of agony. The Nazis conceded few rights to the Lithuanian people. They took complete control of Lithuanian economic life. They did not restore property nationalized by the Soviet occupants. They appropriated the best dwellings in all the cities for themselves. They crowded Lithuanian towns with Germans from their bombed cities. They imposed impossible delivery quotas on the farmers, sending nearly all the produce to Germany. Food-rationing was very strict — but only for the Lithuanians. The Nazi occupants stripped the country of all available metal. They constantly interfered with Lithuanian educational institutions, eventually closing the Universities of Vilnius and Kaunas and other higher schools. They rounded up thousands of men and women for forced labor in Germany. They insistently, indeed furiously, tried to mobilize men for combat duty. They exterminated almost all the Jews, who had always been respected and equal Lithuanian citizens. People caught aiding the Jews were sent to concentration camps (this included many priests). The slightest infringement of any Nazi law was punished with extreme severity.

The Lithuanians resisted —at first passively and then more and more actively. The underground movement, directed by the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania, included all parties, all professions, all religions. At one time there were sixteen clandestine newspapers. Because of the growing disorder, the Germans offered Lithuania national autonomy, with representation in Berlin, in return for active cooperation in the war effort. This was refused. Imprisonments, internments in concentration camps, executions multiplied by the thousand. The persecution of Lithuanian intellectuals, blamed for everything that happened, was particularly brutal; many were arrested, many executed. In retaliation for the refusal of Lithuanian intellectuals to collaborate, libraries were plundered, archives destroyed. The manuscripts for a Lithuanian dictionary which had taken forty years to compile were burned.

The terrible fate of the Czech village of Lidice is well known. Lithuania had several Lidices. Because partisans shot at German convoys near the village of Linkupenai, its two hundred inhabitants, including two priests, were shot and the village burnt to the ground. For a similar reason, men, women, and children,

living in twenty-four farmsteads around the village of Pirčiupiai, were herded into a barn and burned to death. When they tried to escape, they were machin-gunned. Their village was razed. There were other similar outrages.

THE SECOND SOVIET OCCUPATION

In the summer of 1944, the Russian armies were again sweeping into Lithuania, with new devastation by Germans and Russians. By autumn, the whole country was again under Soviet occupation. Knowing that the Soviets would resume their former oppressive policy; aware that the names of most of them were on the deportation lists left behind by the Soviets as they retreated in 1941, some 200,000 Lithuanians fled before the oncoming Red Army — fled to a most uncertain future.

Meanwhile, the returning Soviets proclaimed the "liberation" of the "14th Republic." Their kind of "liberation" meant the massacre by the Russian Secret Police, which followed in the wake of the Red Army, of thousands of unfortunate people suspected of anti-Soviet leanings. Imprisonments and deportations on an ever increasing scale were resumed. Thousands of Russian colonists flooded the country. Russification and Sovietization in every sphere of Lithuanian life recommenced. The partisans tried to help their people by hampering the Soviets at every step. Guerilla warfare continued until 1952. But finally the partisans no longer had arms, their numbers were terribly decimated, and their countrymen were no longer able to give them food or shelter — the Secret Police were everywhere. The partisans had done heroic deeds but now active resistance was over. For the unhappy Lithuanian people only passive resistance remained.

In October, 1943, the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania had managed to send out an appeal to the free world for help in recovering Lithuanian independence. In September, 1944, a new appeal went out, this time specifically to the United States and to Great Britain, asking them to intercede with the Soviet Union for the future of the Lithuanian people, citing the provisions of the Atlantic Charter, to whose principles Russia had officially adhered. The Committee told of new persecutions; asserted that Lithuania did not consider herself a part